



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

We make Indiana a cleaner, healthier place to live.

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

Thomas W. Easterly
Commissioner

100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-8603
(800) 451-6027
www.IN.gov/idem

January 10, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Re: Request for Water Quality Information

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Quality (OWQ) is preparing to update water quality assessments for Indiana watersheds. We are looking forward to your assistance in this endeavor. **We are requesting any existing and readily available water quality reports and/or assessments, using samples collected on or after January 1, 2000.** Reports on water, sediment, biota, biological communities and habitat that assess the quality of Indiana lakes and streams would be most useful.

The information received will be prioritized and reviewed for potential use in updating Indiana water quality assessments. Updated assessments will be reported in the 2008 Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report (formerly known as the 305(b) Report) and will be used to evaluate impaired waters for inclusion on Indiana's 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Both the Integrated Water Monitoring Assessment Report and the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters will be submitted to USEPA in 2008.

The deadline to submit data and information for consideration in the 2008 305(b) assessment and 303(d) listing cycle is **March 31, 2007**. The following criteria are intended to provide an efficient means of submitting data that is representative of existing stream or lake conditions. For water quality data and information to be considered, submittals should follow these guidelines:

- All submittals must include organization name, contact information including phone number, mailing address, and email address (if available).
- Submissions including water quality data should include a description of sampling locations, sampling dates and times, the parameters measured and the results, measurement units for each parameter, field methods and laboratory methods used and any data qualifiers used. Please note that data should not be edited or adjusted but should include the entire data set that was collected.
- Documentation of the quality assurance methods used in collecting, analyzing and reporting the data should be included if available for any numeric chemical, physical, and/or biological data submitted.
- Quality control results that are stored with or are an integral part of the dataset should be included when available. Submitters whose results indicate impairment may be requested to provide more complete quality assurance information and quality control data during the review process.
- Numeric data should be submitted in electronic format such as flat files (e.g. Microsoft Excel spreadsheets) or database formats (generated in Microsoft Access or other database software).
- Geospatial data (e.g. sampling locations) in electronic format is preferred. If you do not have electronic geographical information system (GIS) capabilities, you may instead submit sampling locations marked on a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map, a map from the Indiana Atlas and Gazetteer, or a county planning map. A table providing Global Positioning Unit (GPS) locations is also acceptable providing the units of location are indicated.

- Journal or published articles may be submitted in either electronic or hardcopy format. However, electronic format is preferred for any numeric data included as part of the submission.
- Indicate the experience level of the people conducting the sampling and analyses (e.g. professional, adult volunteers, college, high school, grade school, etc.) and their level of training.

All data and information must be scientifically sound and defensible as determined by IDEM staff. Information received will not be used for 305(b) assessment and 303(d) listing processes until they have been reviewed for their usability and their data quality assured. Information must be submitted in electronic format to be considered readily available for review. Data and information received before March 31, 2007 will be prioritized for review based on IDEM's five-year rotating basin schedule for 305(b) monitoring, assessment, reporting and 303(d) listing:

Basin	Assessment Year	Integrated Report	303(d) List
Lower Wabash River Basin and Kankakee River Basin	2006	2008	2008
Great Lakes Basin and Ohio River Basin	2007	2008	2008
White River, West Fork Basin and Patoka River Basin	2008	2010	2010
White River, East Fork Basin and Whitewater River Basin	2009	2010	2010
Upper Wabash River Basin	2010	2012	2012

Data collected by IDEM for the Lower Wabash and Kankakee River Basins was assessed in 2006. Data and information submitted for these and other basins included in the 2008 integrated reporting and 303(d) listing cycle will receive highest priority for review. Data and information received after March 31, 2007 and all hard copy submissions will be reviewed as time allows. These data and information will be considered for the next scheduled reporting and listing cycle following their review.

Please send any assessments, reports, or monitoring results that you believe may be useful in updating Indiana water quality assessments to:

Jody Arthur 305(b)/303(d) Coordinator
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN (1255)
Indianapolis, IN 40204-2251

Electronic submittals should be sent to: jarthur@idem.IN.gov. It is recommended that exceptionally large files also be submitted on a compact disc (CD) via regular mail.

Questions regarding this solicitation may be directed to Jody Arthur, 305(b)/303(d) Coordinator in the Office of Water Quality at IDEM at 317-234-1424 or 800-451-6027. Ms. Arthur can also be reached by email at jarthur@idem.IN.gov.

Sincerely,

Martha Clark Mettler,
Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Office of Water Quality